## PRESS STATEMENT

## From the County of San Bernardino Josie Gonzales Fifth District

http://www.sbcounty.gov/gonzales

**NOVEMBER 5, 2013** 



JGFDS-PR-303 OP-ED FROM SUPERVISOR JOSIE GONZALES FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT DAN FLORES (909) 387-4565

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A call to action for the greater good of San Bernardino

As San Bernardino County Supervisor for the 5th District, I represent most of the City of San Bernardino along with my colleague, 3rd District Supervisor, James Ramos. I have the utmost respect for all of my cities and honor each one's vision for growth and prosperity. Under normal circumstances, I support a city's self-governance; however, the current critical political situation in the City of San Bernardino forces me to speak out. The City of San Bernardino is a city in crisis! And you, the voters, must answer the alarm on Nov. 5.

Herein is A CALL TO ACTION to all who want to see good government representation with responsible professional dedicated leadership at the helm of your city – go vote!

Together, we must enable the prosperous and dignified changes that are essential to protect the taxpayers' capital investments in the county's seat. Together, we must ensure the safety and economic welfare of our residents. Together, we must fight against corruption and waste. Together, we must promote a positive image of a strong, focused, and "open for business" city that will attract high-end development that can generate higher paying jobs for its residents.

The city is home to the county's seat, and the county is one of its largest employers. We own, operate, and lease millions of dollars in office and facility space throughout the entire City of San Bernardino. It is my obligation to protect the county's investment. The city's bankruptcy has already negatively impacted the county, and the loss of municipal services will only further hamper the county's ability to do business in the City of San Bernardino. The city has an undeniable economic responsibility to its residents, businesses, and to this county. We need honest, dedicated, hardworking leaders.

In order to fulfill our public duty effectively, elected officials must always leave personal and political agendas out of the decision making process and focus our efforts on behalf of the people. If any elected official cannot do that, then he or she should not serve in public office.

Today's Board of Supervisors is a dramatic shift from where the county once was. In those trying years, I spoke out against individuals who abused the power entrusted to them by the

people. The people responded to the call and elected new members of the Board of Supervisors, giving us the outstanding leadership we have today.

Ultimately, it is up to you, the people, to decide the fate of your city. The Nov. 5 election is one of the most important elections in the history of the City of San Bernardino. Those whom you elect must have the leadership and backbone to guide the city through bankruptcy and the moral fiber to make the right decisions.

With six of eight elected officials in city hall on the ballot, you, the residents, have the opportunity to determine how the city recovers from the depths of its financial deterioration. You will decide who will bring order to the political chaos that has plagued the city for years. And it is you who will ultimately decide what San Bernardino will be known for—for its continual political infighting or for the rebirth of a great city.

This election can spur a transformation in the attitude and aptitude of city hall; it can mark the beginning of a new era for all of us. I cannot emphasize enough how critical it is that every eligible voter makes the time to cast his or her ballot. You, and only you, have the voice and the power to enact change! Now is the time for you to be heard.

Josie Gonzales

San Bernardino County Supervisor

Fifth District